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F766m

Reserve



# ASPEN

(*Populus tremuloides aurea*)



8-7740



# BOOKMARK



## ASPEN

*(Populus tremuloides aurea)*

Aspen is one of the most widely distributed trees in North America and is found throughout the southwestern forests. This tree sometimes attains a height of nearly 100 feet and a diameter of 3 feet, generally having a straight bole free of lower limbs, but it is rarely sound at the heart when over a foot or so in diameter.

Aspen is one of the first trees to come up on forest burns, where it acts as a nurse or shelter tree for the later-appearing spruce or fir. Spruce and fir are more tolerant of shade and gradually overtop the aspen, killing it out by overshadowing.

Aspen is not commercially important in the Southwest. It is used in the construction of rustic buildings, corrals, temporary fences, and such purposes as require a lightweight, easily cut wood.

Aspen is readily identified by several salient characteristics:

The chalky white bark;

The round, ever-trembling leaves;

And, in the fall, the varying shades of green and golden yellow in the leaves, outlined against the drab-colored foliage of the distant mountains.

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Prevent damage to the forest—it pays

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*For information regarding the national forests, ask the forest ranger, or write to the Regional Forester at Albuquerque, New Mexico.*